

ATTACHMENT 1

REPORT ON ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS (Annual Report CY 2011 - Question 36)

Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) public education efforts fall into two categories: general and incident specific. The general IDDE education efforts are part of the broader public education and outreach efforts employed by the City that are detailed in SWPP Section 2.1.2.

Most educational material listed in that section deal with the issue of what can and cannot go down the storm drains. The storm drain stenciling and storm drain markers provide the same message as well as the public service announcements, the “Puget Sound Starts Here” decals, and the charity car wash kit.

Specific IDDE education efforts are tailored for the particular incident. Of the six Incidents in 2011, two dealt with sewage (both on the same site), one with restaurant grease, one with spilled diesel fuel, and two with varying levels of chlorinated water disposal.

The sewage spills were caused by malfunctioning pumps. The owners were made aware that uncontrolled sewage spills are both a public health and environmental problem. The angry residents of the apartment building were a strong motivator from the owner to fix the problems. The owner was also educated on the issue by City staff.

The restaurant grease dumping incident required educating the workers and they responded well. The diesel fuel spill was from a truck/pole accident. The owner was a nationwide waste hauler that had a well trained staff to respond to the spill, so very little education was needed.

The first chlorinated water incident involved the draining of a residential swimming pool into the storm drain. The resident was educated in the proper disposal of this water (City sewer system) and responded positively to the message. The second chlorinated water incident involved discharge of hyperchlorinated water by a City-hired contractor. This incident is well documented in Ecology in a S4.F letter and associated adaptive management correspondences. The City has altered its construction specifications with more explicit instruction on the proper disposal of hyperchlorinated and other wastewaters from construction activities.

City staff will continue to find new ways of approaching the general public to educate them on general IDDE awareness and work with the persons responsible for each future incident to tailor the education message as appropriate.